

Some one having asked the Emperor which was the greatest battle that he had fought, he replied it was difficult to answer that question without inquiring what was implied by the greatest battle. "Mine/" continued he, "cannot be judged of separately : they formed a portion of extensive plans. They must therefore be estimated by their consequences. The battle of Marengo, which was so long undecided, procured for us the command of all Italy. Dim annihilated a whole army; Jena laid the whole Prussian monarchy at our feet; Friedland opened the Russian empire to us; and Eekniihl decided the fate of a war. The battle, of the Moskwa was that, in which the greatest talent was displayed, and by which we obtained the fewest advantages. Waterloo, where everything failed, would, had victory crowned our efforts, have saved France and given peace to Europe."

Madame Montholon having inquired what troops lie considered the best, " Those which are victorious, madam/" replied the emperor. " 'Hut," added he, " soldiers ant capricious and inconstant, like you ladies. The best troops were the Carthaginians under Hannibal, the Romans under the Seipios, tint Macedonians under Alexander, and the Prussians under Frederick." lie thought, however, that, the French soldiers were of all others those which could most, easily be rendered the. best, and preserved so. " With my complete guard of '10,000 or 50,000 men I would have undertaken to march through Europe. It is perhaps possible to produce troops as good as those that composed my army of Italy and Austerlite, but certainly none can ever surpass them."

The anniversary of the battle of Waterloo produced a visible impression on the Emperor. ** Incomprehensible day ! " said he dejectedly; " concurrence of unheard-of fatalities! Grouchy, Ney, D'HrUm — was there treachery or wan it merely misfortune? Alas! poor France!" I Fere lie covered his eyes with his hands. "And yet," said he, "all that human skill could do was accomplished! All was not lost until the moment when all had succeeded." A short time afterwards, resuming the subject, he exclaimed, " In that extraordinary